

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB;JBDEXTER;DME

7/26/73 X23698

APPROVED BY P:AMB. PORTER

EA/LC:LRIVES

PM:JLADD

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WH: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

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Z O 010118Z AUG 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 150845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, CB

SUBJ: THAI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON US INTENTIONS
IN SEA

REFS: A. BANGKOK 11025 C. BANGKOK 11428

B. STATE 144716 D. BANGKOK 11708

E. STATE 150842

1. WE FULLY APPRECIATE RTG CONCERN REGARDING QUESTIONS
RAISED WITH DCM BY CHARTCHAI. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THESE
ARE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS FOR US TO RESPOND TO WITH MUCH
PRECISION AT THIS TIME AND WE HOPE THAT, BASED UPON
YOUR RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, YOU CAN CONVEY
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TO THE RTG SOME UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THIS MUST BE SO.
MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALL
THREE QUESTIONS ARE HIGHLY FLUID AND UNCERTAIN, A FACT
WHICH MAKES CONFIDENT PREDICTION IMPOSSIBLE AND INHIBITS

DETAILED ADVANCE PLANNING.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE DIFFICULTIES, YOU SHOULD IMPRESS ON THE RTG OUR RECOGNITION OF HOW IMPORTANT THESE QUESTIONS ARE TO THAILAND AND OUR DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH THEM AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE AS EVENTS UNFOLD AND OUR PLANS EVOLVE. FOR THE PRESENT THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RESPONSES WE CAN PROVIDE TO RTG QUESTIONS RELAYED REF A:

(A) U.S. INTENTIONS REGARDING CAMBODIA AFTER AUGUST 15. OUR INTENTIONS REMAIN AS IN THE PAST: WE STAND FIRMLY WITH THE GKR IN ITS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND PRESERVE AN INDEPENDENT, NEUTRAL AND SOVEREIGN STATE. WHILE PRESSING ON ALL FRONTS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER AS MUCH MATERIAL, DIPLOMATIC AND MORAL SUPPORT AS WE CAN MUSTER WITHIN CURRENT CONSTRAINTS. YOU CAN TELL THE THAI THAT WHILE THE POST-AUGUST 15 SITUATION WILL BE SERIOUS, BY NO MEANS WILL WE WEAKEN OUR EFFORTS OR OUR RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE GKR. WE ARE HOPEFUL THE GKR CAN HOLD ITS OWN AND WILL BEND EVERY EFFORT TO BRING THIS ABOUT. AS AN EARNEST OF OUR DETERMINATION, WE ARE IMPLEMENTING A NEW, SPECIAL AID PACKAGE BY WHICH WE ARE EXPEDITING DELIVERY OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS 105 MM HOWITZERS AND T-28 AIRCRAFT AND HAVE ACCELERATED MAP FUNDING FOR CAMBODIA. AS THAIS ARE AWARE, WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO BUILD UP A 60-DAY STOCK OF RICE IN PHNOM PENH AND INTEND HAVING MAXIMUM POL SUPPLIES IN PLACE BY AUGUST 15. USG IS FURTHER PROVIDING 25 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE CIP PROGRAM AND 9.5 MILLION FOR THE ESF FOR PERIOD JULY - DECEMBER 1973. THE AUGUST 15 DEADLINE, AS THE SITUATION NOW STANDS, MEANS OF COURSE THAT U.S. DIRECT COMBAT ASSISTANCE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AFTER THAT DATE UNLESS CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE IS SOUGHT AND OBTAINED (NOTE: AS REF. B STATED, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. PRESENCE IN THAILAND, WE ARE SECRET

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ASSUMING THIS WOULD BE DONE SHOULD THE SITUATION SO REQUIRE). HOWEVER, OTHER THAN DIRECT COMBAT ASSISTANCE WE WILL CONTINUE USAF DELIVERY (INCLUDING AIRDROP OF AMMUNITION AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO CAMBODIA IN CONNECTION WITH OUR CONTINUING MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.)

WE SHALL ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GKR DIPLOMATICALLY AND TO PRESS BY EVERY MEANS IN OUR POWER FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CURRENT CONFLICT UNDER TERMS THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA AND TO THAI SECURITY. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WILL INCLUDE CONTACTS WITH THE PRG AND SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS POSSIBLE EFFORTS RELATED TO THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE,

UNGA AND OTHER STEPS TO BACK GKR SEARCH FOR PEACE. WE CANNOT PREDICT HOW ALL THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLITICAL FORCES INVOLVED IN CAMBODIA WILL WORK THEMSELVES OUT BUT ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR EFFORTS COUPLED WITH THOSE OF OTHERS SHARING OUR OBJECTIVES WILL PROVE FRUITFUL.

RECOGNIZING RTG INTEREST YOU MAY INFORM THANOM THAT, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, WE INTEND TO BRIEF HIM ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO HIM REGARDING THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION, INCLUDING RECENT U.S. DIPLOMATIC MOVES. YOU MAY INFORM THAI THAT NO DATES HAVE YET BEEN SET FOR KISSINGER TRIP TO PEKING, BUT WE EXPECT IT TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.

WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT THAILAND CAN AND WILL DO TO SUPPORT THE GKR IN THE CURRENT SITUATION. (FOR EXAMPLE, RTG COULD EXPLORE POSSIBLE ASEAN INITIATIVES. ALSO, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE 10,000 TONS OF RICE PROMISED THE GKR BE DELIVERED ASAP AND THAT THE THAI COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PROVIDING THE ADDITIONAL 25,000 REQUESTED BY THE KHMER. THIS RICE IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO HELP PRESERVE KHMER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY.)

(B) FUTURE USE OF AIR BASES IN THAILAND. INSTRUCTION ON THIS SUBJECT TRANSMITTED REF B. ADMITTEDLY, THAT
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INSTRUCTION FALLS SHORT OF WHAT THE RTG PROBABLY WANTS FROM US NOW ON OUR FUTURE PLANS, BUT WE HOPE THEY WILL BEAR WITH US IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAIN SITUATION WE NOW FACE BOTH IN SEA AND IN THE CONGRESS.

(C) THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MEET THAI NEEDS. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO RTG'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE IMPROVING THAI MILITARY CAPABILITY, AND WE WILL CONSIDER THEIR REQUESTS CAREFULLY AND DO ALL WE CAN TO BE HELPFUL. THAI SHOULD REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE BY CONGRESS ARE LIMITED AND WE THEREFORE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND AS FULLY OR AS QUICKLY AS WE WOULD LIKE. FYI: RTG SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO PRESS ANALOGY BETWEEN THAI SITUATION AND POST-HOSTILITIES SITUATION IN ROK AND RVN. END FYI.

3. COMMENTS ON PRESS STATEMENT PROPOSED REF C. IN SEPTTEL. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE150845
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/TB;JBDEXTER;DME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750011-1157
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730869/abqcemyx.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. BANGKOK 11025 C. BANGKOK 11428 B. STATE 144716 D. BANGKOK 11708 E. STATE 150842
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON US INTENTIONS IN SEA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, TH, CB
To: BANGKOK FLASH INFO PHNOM PENH
SAIGON
VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005